

the —
GLOXINIAN

The Journal for Gesneriad Growers

Vol. 50, No. 4

Fourth Quarter 2000



Fieldia australis

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc.

A non-profit membership corporation chartered by the State of Missouri

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Gesneriad Hybridizers Association — *CrossWords*, 3 issues, \$8. Send to Richard Carter, 516 North 3rd Street, Spearfish, SD 57783.

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Gesneriad Correspondence Club — U.S. \$6.75; Canada \$8.75; Foreign \$14.00; Braille Newsletter \$5.00 per year. Write to Lois & Ron Kruger, 207 Wycoff Way West, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-5644.

Gesneriad Research Foundation — 1873 Oak St., Sarasota, FL 34236-7114. Individual, \$25; Family, \$35; Club, \$100.

Visit our greenhouse and rainforest when in the area. Telephone (941) 365-2378. <hwiehler@aol.com>

Gesneriophiles Internet Discussion Group — To join, send the following message: subscribe gesneriophiles <your name> to: list-proc@lists.colorado.edu from the email address you wish to receive the postings.

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Chapters: Report changes of chapter presidents to the Chapters and Affiliates Chair.

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<http://www.aggs.org>

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COVER

Fieldia australis – grown by
Bob & Dee Stewart awarded "Best in Show"
at the 2000 Convention Flower Show
(photo by Julie Mavity-Hudson)

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Martens' donated plants) by Belisle's Violet House, Carolyn Conlin-Lane, Bill
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President's Message — Gloxinias to You!

Jon Dixon <president@aggs.org>
55 Tum Suden Way, Woodside, CA 94062

Many years ago my brother, then editor of his high school newspaper, would write a column entitled "Orchids to You", a symbolic device used to publicly thank students for their service to the school. I thought it would be appropriate, on the eve of our 50th year of AGGS, to bring back this traditional mode:

- To the Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society, for the fantastic job they did making this year's convention so delightful, educational, inspirational, and FUN.
- To M.J. and Dave Tyler, our outgoing Membership Secretariat, for six years of diligent, skillful administration of our membership services.
- To Bob Clark, from the New England Chapter, our enthusiastic new Membership Secretary. Look for the new address for AGGS to be published in this issue of THE GLOXINIAN.
- To Dale Martens, one of our most hardworking members, who is leaving her position as Advertising Manager of THE GLOXINIAN in order to devote herself to her many other activities, including Co-Chair of GHA, columnist on Gesneriads for AVSA, judging school teacher, hybridizer, and frequent speaker on a wide variety of topics concerning gesneriads.
- To Tom Bruning, from Iowa, a member of several AGGS chapters, greenhouse consultant, and talented AGGS auctioneer, who has accepted appointment as our new "Ad-Man".
- To Laura Johnson, for her excellent stewardship of the Seed Fund; and to Bob and Carol Connelly our new Seed Fund Co-Chairpersons.
- To David Turley, Webmaster, designer of the AGGS website, and Chairman of the Internet Communications Committee. We are extremely fortunate to have David's leadership and expertise managing our increasingly crucial cyberspace home for AGGS.
- To Jeanne Katzenstein, our dedicated editor, for her hard work resulting in the continuous improvement of THE GLOXINIAN.
- To the many individuals on the AGGS Board, made up of officers, directors, committee chairmen, and staff, who manage an incredible array of AGGS projects all year long. Thank you for the fantastic job you have done for the society and for my personal pleasure in working with you all.

At the AGGS board meeting this July, we initiated an exciting list of projects designed to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Look for articles, beginning in this issue, highlighting our first fifty years. During our anniversary year we intend to print an AGGS Membership Roster, by membership category. Those of you who wish to elevate your membership to Sustaining, Research, or Life Membership are encouraged to do so now. And, in addition to an array of other projects, we will be returning next July to Kansas City, the site of our very first convention, for a very special 50th anniversary celebration.



Seed Fund

Bob and Carol Connolly
2391 Phillips Dr., Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2450

There has been a change in management of the Seed Fund. With the continued growth of the Fund, it is getting increasingly difficult for one person to handle the workload. So, note that the Seed Fund is now being handled by the two of us. By the time you read this, we will have been handling the orders for several months. We would like to thank Laura for her assistance and for her dedication and superb work in handling the Fund after Maryjane Evans.

We started growing gesneriads and joined AGGS in 1980 as members of the Honolulu Chapter with the wonderful encouragement of Raymond Lau. Our first issue of THE GLOXINIAN had a Seed Fund list of two pages, where it now runs more than six pages. We attended our first convention in 1984 at San Francisco, and have been hooked since then.

Finally, we would like to continue to encourage donations of seed. The success of the Fund is directly related to the donations of seed. Each time you see a deletion to the list in this column, we encourage you to see if you have this plant and can donate seed from it to the Fund. Often the deletions are due to the popularity of the plant and those who have received seed are our best source of more seed.

We would like to thank the kind folks who have contributed to the Seed Fund most recently: Ros and Derek Arnold, Marlene Beam, Alain Chautems, Maryjane Evans, Richard Holtzman, Frank Kahn, Leopoldo Leon, Toshijiro Okuto, Mauro Peixoto, Carol Schreck, and Peter Shalit.

ADDITIONS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Achimenes candida</i> USBRG96-150 (D,F,L) | <i>Paliavana sericiflora</i> AC2311 (S, T) |
| • <i>Chirita dielsii</i> (F, R) | <i>Sinningia aghensis</i> AC2356 (T) |
| • <i>Chirita caliginosa</i> × <i>sericea</i> (LM) | <i>Sinningia amambayensis</i> (L) |
| • <i>Chirita</i> (sp. 'New York' × <i>flavimaculata</i>) × self (F, R) | <i>Sinningia douglasii</i> GRF9936 (LM) |
| <i>Codonanthe macradenia</i> (B) | <i>Sinningia speciosa</i> hybrid-mini red (F, R, P) |
| <i>Columnnea schiedeana</i> (red reverse) (B) | <i>Sinningia speciosa</i> hybrid-red slipper (F, R) |
| <i>Columnnea fendleri</i> (B) | • <i>Sinningia</i> 'Gmucs' × self (F, P) |
| <i>Columnnea linearis</i> (B) | • <i>Sinningia</i> 'Cherry Chips' × 'Super Orange' F2 (F, P) |
| • <i>Drymonia killipii</i> (B) | <i>Vanhouttea lanata</i> AC 2405 (S, T) |
| <i>Gasteranthus villosus</i> USBRG-97107 (H) | |
| <i>Kohleria spicata</i> USBRG94-552 (M) | • denotes LIMITED quantities |

DELETIONS:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <i>Alsobia dianthiflora</i> 'Costa Rica' | <i>Fieldia australis</i> |
| <i>Besleria triflora</i> | <i>Kohleria eriantha</i> × 'Bermuda Red' |
| <i>Conandron ramondiioides</i> | <i>Nematanthus</i> sp. 'Santa Teresa' |
| <i>Diastema latiflorum</i> GRF9668 | |

Seed Packets — \$1.50 each

Please

- Make checks payable to the AGGS Seed Fund in U.S. funds
- To pay by credit card, send your credit card number, expiration date, and signature, and indicate if the card is Mastercard or Visa (\$6.00 minimum)
- Remember to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope
- List alternate choices
- Include your membership number (first number on your mailing label)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>(B) Suitable for hanging basket.</p> <p>(D) Has dormant period, forming tubers or rhizomes.</p> <p>(F) Blooms readily in fluorescent light.</p> <p>(G) Recommended for greenhouses; requires space.</p> <p>(H) Requires humidity and warmth.</p> <p>(L) Low growing; not more than 12".</p> | <p>(LM) Low to medium height.</p> <p>(M) Medium height; 1 to 2 feet.</p> <p>(MT) Medium to tall.</p> <p>(P) Petite or miniature; not more than 6 inches tall.</p> <p>(R) Rosette in form.</p> <p>(S) Requires sun to bloom.</p> <p>(T) Tall plants; generally over 3 feet.</p> |
|--|--|

Coming Events

October 26–28 — New York — NYS African Violet Convention and Show, Holiday Inn Airport, 911 Brooks Avenue I-390, Exit 18A, Rochester. Sale Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; Show and Sale Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Contact Barbara Gogoll, gagogoll@hotmail.com (716-392-9528) or Irwin Wagman, irwinwag@aol.com (716-381-6384).

November 3–5 — Florida — Gesneriad Research Foundation Seminar on the History and Biology of *Gloxinia* and *Paliavana*. Registration fee \$50. For additional details or information on local accommodations, contact Dr. Hans Wiehler, 1873 Oak Street, Sarasota, FL 34236 (941-365-2378) <hwiehler@aol.com>.

November 4–5 — New Jersey — Tri-State African Violet Council annual AVSA show and plant sale “Violets

Through the Ages” at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 53 East Hanover Ave., Morristown. Saturday 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission free. Contact Jill Fischer (908-464-4417) or Karyn Cichocki (973-579-7914).

November 9–11 — Pennsylvania — Mid Atlantic African Violet Society Convention, Show and Sale, “Mummers, Pretzels, Violets & More: Some of the Best of Philadelphia” at Sheraton Great Valley, Lancaster Pike, Fraser. Sales Thursday 2:30 to 9:00 pm; Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Showroom open Friday 1:30 to 5:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Contact Convention Chair Marian Gershon (215-393-0852) or Show Chair Peggy DePhillippo (610-489-4744) for information on Registration and Entries or for additional details.

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AV and Gesneriad publication!*

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New Slide Program — Tampa: Convention 2000

Continuing our series of programs featuring the best entries at the convention flower show, "Y2K in Tampa Bay" is now available. For those who weren't at convention, you can see the beauty of the show and meet new plants you've never seen before. For those who were at convention, you can take another look at the great show put on in Tampa.

As a reminder, the following programs are also available:

- Introduction to Gesneriads
- Chiritas
- Nashville: Convention 1999
- *Nematanthus* and *Codonanthe*
- Chicago: Convention 1998
- Sinningias
- Achimenes
- *Streptocarpus* Species

More new programs are in the works, so watch for announcements in future issues of THE GLOXINIAN.

Programs can be reserved by mail to Dee Stewart, 1 No Name Road, Stow MA 01775-1604 or email to dee.stewart@110.net. Specify the program to be reserved and the date the program is required. Since new programs are very popular, it is helpful if you provide as much lead-time as possible, and list alternate dates or alternate programs that would be acceptable. Program rental of \$20.00 US payable to AGGS must be received before the program can be shipped. Your request will be promptly acknowledged and programs will be shipped to arrive at least one week in advance of your reserved date. Programs must be returned within five days of your reservation date via certified Priority Mail in the U.S. or the equivalent postal category from outside the U.S.



Episcia lilacina grown by Robert Hall
(photo by Michael Riley)

2000 AGGS Convention Board Meeting Review — Tampa, Florida

Peter Shalit <ps83@cornell.edu>
1312 E. Denny Way, Seattle, WA 98122-2519

Beautiful Tampa, Florida was the host city for our Year 2000 Convention. Your AGGS Board, led by President Jon Dixon, met for three productive sessions before, during, and after the convention. In addition, the Annual General Membership Meeting was held after the luncheon on Friday, July 7.

The Board approved several changes in personnel among the Committee Chairs and AGGS Staff. M.J. and Dave Tyler, our Membership Secretariat, have resigned after six years. Their hard work on behalf of the Society is much appreciated. Bob Clark will be taking on the Membership duties. Marlene Beam has had to step down as Library and Education Chair, and has been replaced by Dee Stewart. Marlene is to be thanked for a job well done. Dale Martens is relinquishing her duties as Advertising Manager for THE GLOXINIAN after building up advertising revenues substantially. She has done a great job. Tom Bruning will be replacing her in this position. Please patronize our advertisers so that they continue to advertise in TG.

The following AGGS Officers were elected by the Board for a second term, ending in 2002: Arleen Dewell, 2nd Vice President, Paul Kroll, Corresponding Secretary, and Helen M. Bortvedt, Treasurer.

At the Membership Meeting, the slate of Directors presented by the Nominating Committee was elected for the three-year term ending in 2003: Susan Grose, Paul Kroll, Suzie Larouche, Ingrid Lindskog, Julie Mavity-Hudson, Dee Stewart, and Colleen Turley. Next year's Nominating Committee will consist of Paul Kroll (chairman), Marlene Beam, and Bill Price.

The Membership voted to approve a change in the Bylaws, to bring them into line with current practice, regarding reporting by chapters to AGGS of their officers and bylaws. The full text of this amendment was published in the 1Q2000 issue of THE GLOXINIAN.

The Northwest Arkansas Gesneriad Society, AGGS' newest chapter, was presented with its charter at the General Membership Meeting. Several other regions have enough AGGS members to form the nucleus of a new chapter. Arleen Dewell, our Chapters and Affiliates Chair, is working with members who are exploring the formation of a chapter in their area. Helen Freidberg, AGGS Parliamentarian, has composed a set of model Bylaws for prospective chapters.

Also at the Membership Meeting, Molly Schneider presented well-deserved Awards of Appreciation to two AGGS members. Ingrid Lindskog, from Umeå, Sweden, has been an AGGS member for 14 years. She is founder and president of our chapter in Sweden as well as editor of their publication *Gesneriastnyt*. Marlene Beam has been a member of AGGS for 13 years. She has held numerous offices in her local AGGS Chapter in Colorado, and has just completed terms as an AGGS Director and Library and Education Chair. An article about these two awardees appears elsewhere in this issue.

The 50th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Michael Riley, is planning numerous projects to help recognize and celebrate this milestone in AGGS history which will occur in 2001. The Board voted the Committee a substantial budget to fund their activities.

The Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund continues to grow, and nearly \$6000 was contributed by this year's Auctions. Income from the interest on the Fund helps support the operating expenses of the Society. Helen Bortvedt, Treasurer, helped the Board arrive at a balanced budget for the next year, once again without a dues increase. We again were reminded that membership fees do not cover the costs of printing and mailing THE GLOXINIAN which must be subsidized by other revenues. An increase in the number of AGGS members would help our bottom line. THE GLOXINIAN will continue to be 56 pages in length, and each issue will now have at least ten color photos. Additional photos depend on sponsorships and donations.



Chapters and Affiliates Chair Arleen Dewell presenting Doris Carson the charter for the new Northwest Arkansas Gesneriad Society

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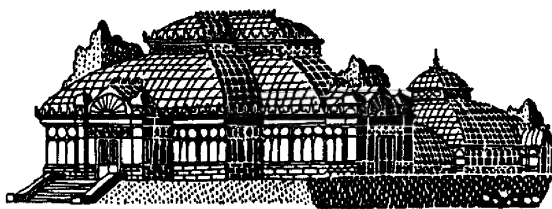
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"Y2K in Tampa Bay"

Carol Ann Bonner <cadastra@mindspring.com>
3705 Tibbs Dr., Nashville, TN 37211

I suppose an AGGS convention is something like skydiving—the careful preparation, the journey to the jump point, the adrenaline rush of the leap from the plane, the exhilaration of free fall, and then, when your feet touch the ground, the joyous realization: I survived another one!

And a great jump it was! Y2K in Tampa Bay! The activities started early for those who arrived on Tuesday (which included most members of the Board who attended their first meeting that day). The special July 4th treat was a barbecue at Mollie Howell's home in Clearwater, just west of Tampa. We strolled around her yard and admired the chrysothemis and nautilocalyx used as bedding plants in the foundation and island beds, as well as the many interesting gingers. Around the pool, a giant milkweed with purple flowers and an allamanda with cherry-mauve blossoms competed with Mollie's seven-pound Dachshund-Poodle mix for attention. Everybody got a picture taken, but the plants were better at holding still.

And then there was Mollie's shade house. Gasp! What gorgeous plants! A white streptocarpella, a stunning *Coltrichantha* 'Miami Sunset', a beautifully grown eucodonia, plus orchids, begonias and, of course, gingers. Inside the house we admired a spotless plant room lined with incredibly tidy plant stands holding lovely streps and other gesneriads on capillary mats or wicks. A ceiling fan provided good air circulation, and a sound system that piped in soothing music completed what for many of us seemed the perfect indoor plant-growing environment. Barbecue with all the trimmings topped off the evening—and all of this was the day before the convention officially began!



Mollie Howell in her plant-filled shade house

Wednesday is the day packed with Judging School and dozens of meetings—well, not that many, but it's a pretty busy day. You're on your own for dinner, so a bunch of us drove to the Columbia Restaurant in the Ybor district of Tampa, an old cigar manufacturing part of town. What a terrific meal! Authentic Cuban cuisine in a charming old-world-style setting with flamenco dancing, but no time for dessert (even if we'd had room) because the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association meeting was starting at 8:15 and no one wanted to miss it.

At the GHA meeting, Toshijiro Okuto spoke and showed slides of his growing area and the botanical garden where he works. Since we had seen slides the year before of his exciting *Streptocarpus* and *Chirita* hybrids, I very much enjoyed seeing the larger picture of where this work takes place. Next, Dale Martens showed slides from Charles Lawn including the Royal Sydney Flower Show where we marveled again at the number and quality of *Sinningia speciosa* entries. Included in the presentation were some new Australian hybrids, and when Dale called the door prize numbers and I at last heard mine, I was excited to see a rhizome of *×Smithicodonia* 'Dave's Tree' among the offerings.



Jerry Trowbridge describing his columnneas to the visiting conventioners

There's so much of horticultural interest in the Tampa Bay area that it must have been difficult to choose what to leave out, but the Tampa Chapter did a good job on what to leave in for the Thursday tour. The three buses alternated at four locations so our numbers didn't overwhelm them. Our bus stopped first at Bud Spence's orchid greenhouses where we saw not only thousands of orchids, but also gesneriads, begonias, unusual succulents and aroids, and a few cats. From there we traveled to Jerry Trowbridge's brand new greenhouse—so new, he hasn't filled it up yet, but he will. (Greenhouse growers all know there's no such thing as a greenhouse that's big enough.) Jerry had dozens of big columnnea baskets—his hybrids and some species

among them—that hung down six feet (~1.8 meters), as well as unusual nautocalyx and pots of chrysothemis, with a few carnivorous plants thrown in. I don't know if anyone left without buying one or more bags of cuttings.

Now, south to Sarasota and the Marie Selby Botanical Garden, a place I have visited many times and that is one of my favorites. I'd never been in the working greenhouses before, and that was our privilege that day. First we had a very good boxed lunch in an air-conditioned building which was a nice break because the greenhouses were hot, but they were filled with interesting plants, some of which were for sale. I asked about some cute little staghorn ferns about the size of my hand—\$50! They were a very rare species, but I decided to save my money for gesneriads.

Then one more stop—the Gesneriad Research Foundation where it's ALL gesneriads, ALL the time. Walking through the miniature rainforest Hans Wiehler has created in the back yard was a pleasant if wet way to cool off, but I forgot about the heat when I saw the recent Bolivian collection of *Gloxinia purpurascens* in the sales area. This form is covered with purple hairs and can be grown and flowered at a manageable size although under other conditions it can also get quite large. I wasn't the only person who filled a box with plants, a pin, and a tee shirt before re-boarding the bus for the trip back to Tampa.

By working in show entries I had the opportunity to sort of preview the show, and I could tell from the march of plants coming in that it was going to be a terrific one. The quality was certainly there, but because I only worked the second shift (Jeanne Katzenstein did a fantastic job of organizing the procedure), I didn't know till the show opened how much unusual material we would see. But I didn't have time to think about it because the sales room opened, and that's my second favorite part of convention! We had lots of plants to choose from (and there were lots of people choosing,) and I was excited to find a few things that had been on my "must have" list for some time.

Since I'd previously volunteered to work in the plant sales room, Julie agreed to cover the Friday and Saturday lectures, and that report follows in a separate article.



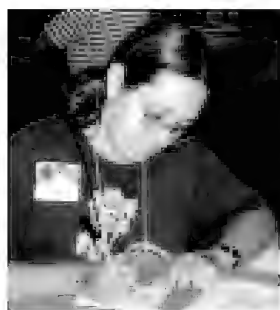
Making selections at plant sales



Some of the hard-working
Tampa Bay Chapter members:
Carol Schreck, Jo Anne
Martinez, Catie Lindelow,
Mollie Howell (above LtoR)
Phyllis King (L) and Barbara
Matthews (R)



Flower Show workers:
Diane Heras, Connie Leifeste, Shirley Killpatrick, Bonita Hutcheson



Carol Ann Bonner
working at entries



Carol & Bob Connelly,
new Seed Fund Chairs



Tom Bruning, our
new "Ad-Man"

The Awards Banquet didn't disappoint with a lively (what else?) Live Auction, then our first opportunity to see the flower show complete with all the award ribbons. I hadn't been wrong about the quality—what a terrific display of excellent plant material!

Some of us got up very early the next morning to photograph the show plants for TG and for the slide library. I think I yawned a lot at first, but it's another opportunity to get a really good look at beautifully grown and unusual gesneriads. Then it was on to the morning lectures and back to plant sales.

Saturday lunch closed the Live Auction where I was pleased to add a couple of items to my inventory, including an Ecuadorian plant collection from John Clark via the Smithsonian. Then it was time to break everything down and pack. Pack! I'd bought about seventy-five new plants, including a four-foot allamanda (the color of the one in Mollie Howell's yard) that had been residing in our bathroom like a Jules Verne octopus, and I had to get them into my car and still have room for Julie's and my luggage. That occupied my evening while Julie and the rest of the crew celebrated the close of the convention with a dinner boat cruise.

Julie reported that the dinner cruise was a wonderful experience. Although the weather was a bit gray, the temperature was pleasant and the accommodations were very nice. Everyone had the opportunity to visit the upper decks where you could look out over the water and see dolphins as well as beautiful birds including roseate spoonbills, pelicans, egrets and great blue herons. The dinner was delicious, and there was a two-person band playing music from the 70s. Many gesneriad lovers turned out to be very good dancers in addition to being good growers.

After excusing ourselves early from the board meeting on Sunday, Julie and I checked out of the hotel and headed for home, the voices of fellow conventioners echoing in our heads. Remember I said that the sales room was my second favorite thing at convention? That's because my *most* favorite thing is seeing the many friends I've made through our shared love of gesneriads, and I look forward to seeing them again next year. For those of you who've never attended an AGGS Convention, join us in 2001 in Kansas City to celebrate our Fiftieth Anniversary. You'll have a lot of friends there waiting to meet you!



Friends from Washington, Massachusetts, Canada, New Jersey, Tennessee and Texas enjoying lunch at Selby Gardens

Gesneriads, The Internet and You

David Turley <webmaster@aggs.org>
6118 Windsor Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407

I must start this installment with a correction. In the last issue I predicted that by now I would have had the pleasure of chatting with many of you in person at the Tampa convention. So much for predicting the future! As it turns out, Colleen, Nolan, and I were unable to attend. As many of you know, I started the year 2000 with a new job that allows me to work at home, affording me the joy of more family time than I had when I spent four hours a day on a train. Along with that benefit comes a very heavy work load. While it is exciting to be part of a rapidly expanding Internet-based business, it has recently meant much less time for travel. We all look forward to seeing you in Kansas City next year. (I promise.)

AGGS President Jon Dixon presided over the ICC meeting at this year's convention and his summary is included here. I think Jon got roped into chairing the meeting at the last minute, and didn't know he'd be asked for a summary until the week after convention. He survived like the trooper he is. Thanks, Jon.

"The Internet Communications meeting was held on Wednesday, July 5th, during the AGGS Convention. AGGS President Jon Dixon chaired the meeting in the absence of ICC Chairman David Turley. During the meeting, several issues relevant to the AGGS website were discussed. It was mentioned that the absence of the on-line benefit auction was missed this year, but understandable considering David's heavy work load. Peter Shalit suggested that perhaps another individual could be found to handle the paperwork and organization of the auction in order to make it easier for David. The auction could be held at any time of the year, or as in the past, as an enthusiasm build-up prior to the AGGS convention. Several people mentioned how much they liked the web-site. A show of hands demonstrated how popular the new on-line registration for the convention had been. Jon, a perennial procrastinator, mentioned that he was able to meet the "Early Bird" admission to the plant sale by registering on the night of the deadline. A discussion of the Internet mailing list, Gesneriphiles, found several attendees who were not subscribers. Asked why, they mentioned various reasons from unfamiliarity to lack of time to read all of the messages. It was suggested that people could set up their computers so that Gesneriphiles mail could be directed to a separate file. It was requested that Norah Otto, list owner, post monthly information about commands for list functions. It was pointed out that this information could be easily found by sending to the listproc address the one word command: help."

Despite everything, I have managed to make a few additions to the web site recently. As promised, you can now pay your GHA dues and subscribe to *Appraisal* using the AGGS online membership application. I think this will be especially useful to our overseas friends.

As I write this, we are busy getting the convention reports online, complete with plant and people photos. By the time you read this, they will all be online. (There I go with those predictions again!) Be sure to check the web-site for details on new officers, directors, and chairpersons. A new search engine has been added to the site. This search feature makes it easy to locate references to your favorite plants (and people).

Another exciting project is underway. We are working to bring the registered gesneriads information online. This is a tremendous undertaking and will be done in small steps. Keep an eye on the site for news.

Since this issue of THE GLOXINIAN is devoted mostly to convention news, I'll close and let you get on to reading that. (I can hardly wait to read it myself.) Next time we'll pick up with more postings from the message forums. As you get ready to place those fall plant orders, don't forget to check the suppliers listed on the web site. Many of our advertisers are reachable via email, and many even have web sites now.

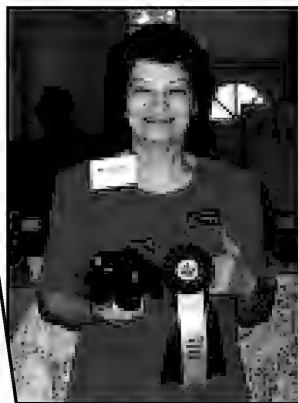
Keep that email coming and visit us at <http://www.aggs.org>.

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Oh, I didn't tell you, I won Best Gesneriad with *Sinningia* 'Teddy'.



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2000 Convention Flower Show Awards

Colleen Turley <awards@aggs.org>
6118 Windsor Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407-5058

I always enjoy presenting the show awards at the annual Convention, but we were unable to go to Tampa and I really missed fulfilling my duties this year. I am most grateful to Paul Kroll for gallantly stepping in for me. I am also indebted to all who helped Paul with the monumental task of being both the Judges Chairman and Awards Chairman: Bill Price, Arleen Dewell, Monte Watler, Tom Bruning, Jeanne Katzenstein, and Bob Clark.

The generosity of the chapters, members, and friends of the society again provided the opportunity to recognize all the hard work and talents of the show participants. Thank you all. Any unused donations are being used to provide color photographs of award-winning entries in THE GLOXINIAN. I would like to recognize the donors and special requests of the unused awards: Marlene Beam in honor of 3Gs, Mary Bozoian in honor of Jessie and Tony Crisafulli, Susan Grose, Bonita Hutcheson, and the Pittsburgh African Violet and Gesneriad Society.

SPECIAL AWARDS

SWEEPSTAKES IN HORTICULTURE - to Phyllis King for 9 blue ribbons, an award from the New England Chapter in memory of Anne Crowley

RUNNER-UP TO SWEEPSTAKES IN HORTICULTURE - to Jo Anne Martinez for 8 blue ribbons, an award from the Gulf Coast Chapter and a gift certificate from Violet Ventures

SWEEPSTAKES IN ARTISTIC - to Bob Clark for 3 blue ribbons, an award from Hans and Everdina Inpijn

BEST IN SHOW - to Bob and Dee Stewart for *Fieldia australis*, a donation for a plaque with a picture of the winning plant from the Tampa Bay Chapter and also from the Long Island Chapter in memory of Ed Gaulrapp

SECOND BEST IN SHOW - to Carolyn Conlin-Lane for *Raphiocarpus petelotii*, an award from Helen Freidberg in memory of Anne Crowley

BEST ARTISTIC - to Karyn Cichocki for her arrangement "Busch Gardens", an award from the Toronto Chapter

BEST IN THE ARTS - to Bob Clark for his *Sinningia speciosa* cross-stitch picture, an award from the Toronto Chapter

BEST OLD WORLD SPECIES - to Carol Ann Bonner for *Aeschynanthus micranthus*, an award from Jeanne Katzenstein in honor of Bill Burr and Dr. Tony Weber

BEST NEW WORLD SPECIES - to Robert Hall for *Pearcea hypocyrtiflora*, an award from Jeanne Katzenstein in honor of Dr. Hans Wiehler

BEST RECENTLY REGISTERED (1996-2000) - to Christel Collier for *Streptocarpus* 'Lavender Rosette', an award from the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association

BEST TUBEROUS - to Robert Hall for *Sinningia* 'Tinkerbells', an award from the Tampa Bay Chapter in memory of Bill Connatser

BEST RHIZOMATOUS - to Robert Hall for *Pearcea hypocyrtiflora*, an award from the Tampa Bay Chapter in memory of John Menish

BEST FIBROUS - to Bill Price for *Saintpaulia rupicola*, an award from the Tampa Bay Chapter in memory of Fred Moak

BEST GROWN FOR FOLIAGE - to Robert Hall for *Pearcea hypocyrtiflora*, an award from Lauray of Salisbury

BEST NEW INTRODUCTION - to Carolyn Conlin-Lane for *Raphiocarpus petelotii*, an award from Marlene Mandel

BEST LESSER-KNOWN GESNERIAD - to Bob and Dee Stewart for *Fieldia australis*, an award from the Northern Illinois Chapter

BEST COLLECTION - to Jo Anne Martinez for her *Chirita* collection, an award from the Gulf Coast Chapter

BEST MINIATURE SINNINGIA - to Phyllis King for *Sinningia* 'Al Wojcik' \times self, an award from the Tampa African Violet Society

BEST MICRO-MINIATURE SINNINGIA - to Phyllis King for *Sinningia pusilla*, an award from the Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter in memory of Susan Schlieder

BEST STREPTOCARPUS - to Mary Bozoian for *Streptocarpus pumilus*, an award from Helen Bortvedt in memory of Phyllis Wright

BEST ARRANGEMENT OF FRESH CUT MATERIAL - to Karyn Cichocki for "Busch Gardens", an award from Paul Kroll

BEST ARRANGEMENT OF GROWING MATERIAL - to Paul Kroll for "Y2K", an award from the Gulf Coast Chapter

BEST GROWING MATERIAL - to Dale Martens for *Streptocarpus thompsonii*, an award from the Gulf Coast Chapter

BEST IN PHOTOGRAPHY - to John Evans for his color print of *Gasteranthus acropodus*, an award from Daphne Yaremko

BEST CRAFT - to Bob Clark for his *Sinningia speciosa* cross-stitch picture, an award from the Toronto Chapter

BEST EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT - to Dale Martens for "Observations from Propagating a Unifoliate Streptocarpus", an award from the National Capital Area Chapter



Acting Awards Chair Paul Kroll congratulating Phyllis King on winning 9 blue ribbons and the Horticulture Sweepstakes Award



Dee and Bob Stewart with their "Best In Show" plant
Fieldia australis



Artistic Sweepstakes winner
Bob Clark with one of his
blue-ribbon arrangements



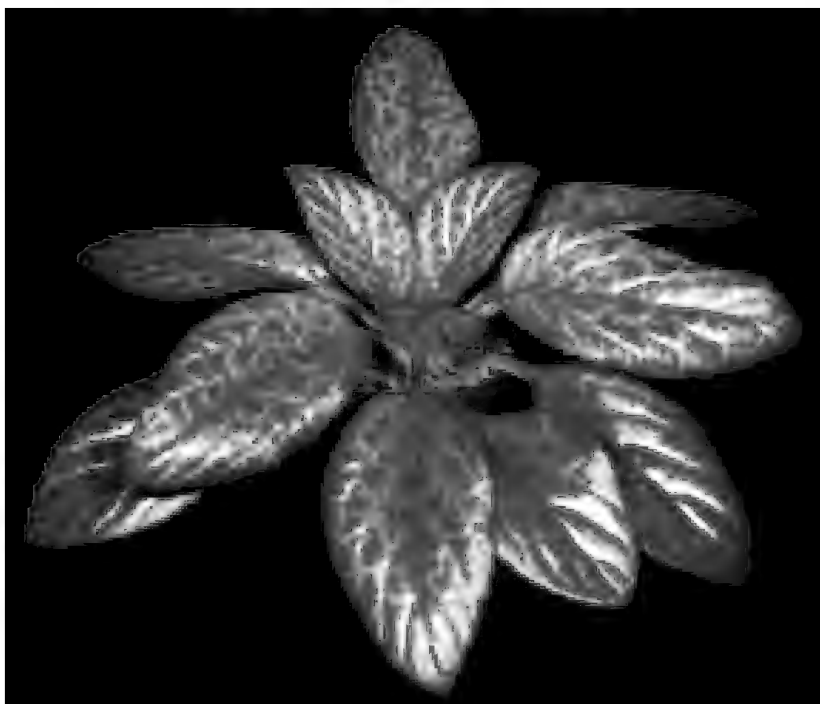
Sinningia 'Al Wojcik' \times self
exhibited by Phyllis King, photo by Michael Riley



Phinaea sp. USBRG 96-336
exhibited by Barbara Matthews, photo by Stan Schwartz



Streptocarpus 'Lavender Rosette'
exhibited by Christel Collier, photo by Carol Ann Bonner



Chirita 'Moonlight'
exhibited by Jo Anne Martinez, photo by Julie Mavity-Hudson

Division I — HORTICULTURE

SECTION A — Tuberous Gesneriads in Flower

- Class 1 - to Phyllis King for *Sinningia* 'Aurora Borealis', an award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Phyllis Rosenbluth
- Class 2A - to Carra O'Daniel for *Sinningia* hybrid, an award from the Gesneriad-Dicts of Western New York
- Class 2B - to Robert Hall for *Sinningia* 'Flair', an award from the Grow & Study Chapter
- Class 3A - to Robert Hall for *Sinningia* 'Tinkerbells', an award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Marty & Zelda Mines
- Class 3B - to Jo Anne Martinez for *Sinningia* 'Los Angeles', an award from the Grow & Study Chapter
- Class 4 - to Phyllis King for *Sinningia* 'Al Wojcik' × self, an award from Jean Miller
- Class 5 - to Phyllis King for *Sinningia pusilla*, an award from the American Gesneriad Society of San Francisco
- Class 6 - to Phyllis King for *Chrysothemis pulchella* 'Black Flamingo', an award from Laura Shannon

SECTION B — Rhizomatous Gesneriads in Flower

- Class 7 - to Mollie Howell for *Achimenes grandiflora* 'Robert Dressler', an award from the Gulf Coast Chapter
- Class 8 - to Robert Hall for *Gloxinia* 'Medea' × self, an award from the Gulf Coast Chapter
- Class 9 - to Phyllis King for *Kohleria* 'Dark Shadows', an award from the Gesneriad-Dicts of Western New York
- Class 10 - to Barbara Matthews for *Phinaea* sp. USBRG96-336, an award from Nellie Sleeth in memory of Phyllis Wright
- Class 11B - to Doris Brownlie for *Smithiantha* 'Little One', an award from Nellie Sleeth in memory of Phyllis Wright

SECTION C — Fibrous-Rooted Gesneriads in Flower

- Class 12 - to Carol Ann Bonner for *Aeschynanthus micranthus*, an award from Dale Martens
- Class 13A - to Jo Anne Martinez for *Chirita* 'Kazu', an award from the Tampa African Violet Society
- Class 13B - to Jo Anne Martinez for *Chirita sinensis* 'Latifolia', an award from David, Colleen, & Nolan Turley in honor of Larry Skog
- Class 14 - to Phyllis King for ×*Codonanthus* 'Aurora', an award from Norma & Norman Chenkin in honor of Frances Batcheller
- Class 15 - to Jo Anne Martinez for *Columnnea* 'Toronto', an award from Maryjane Evans
- Class 16 - to Robert Hall for *Episcia* 'Star of Bethlehem', an award from Dale Martens
- Class 18 - to Phyllis King for *Gesneria pedicellaris*, an award from Maryjane Evans
- Class 19 - to Elaine Gordon for *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, an award from Norma & Norman Chenkin in honor of Frances Batcheller
- Class 20 - to Jerry Trowbridge for *Nematanthus* sp. 'Santa Teresa', an award from Norma & Norman Chenkin in honor of Frances Batcheller
- Class 21 - to Carolyn Conlin-Lane for *Petrocosmea flaccida*, an award from Mary Bozoian in memory of Anne Crowley
- Class 22 - to Bill Price for *Saintpaulia rupicola*, an award from the Delta Gesneriad & African Violet Society
- Class 25A - to Carolyn Conlin-Lane for *Saintpaulia* 'Ms. Smarty Pants', an award from the Delta Gesneriad & African Violet Society
- Class 25B - to Phyllis King for *Saintpaulia* 'Frosted Denim', an award from the Delta Gesneriad & African Violet Society
- Class 26 - to Christel Collier for *Saintpaulia* 'Milky Way Trail', an award from Irwin & Fay Wagman
- Class 28A - to Mary Bozoian for *Streptocarpus pumilus*, an award from the Puget Sound Chapter in memory of Phyllis Wright
- Class 28B - to Mollie Howell for *Streptocarpus* 'Janus', an award from Violets of the West
- Class 28C - to Christel Collier for *Streptocarpus* 'Lavender Rosette', an award from Arlene Dewell in honor of Norma Chenkin

Class 30A - to Robert Hall for *Corytoplectus cutucuensis*, an award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Miriam Goldberg

Class 30B - to Ben Paternoster for *Boea hemsleyana*, an award from Mary Bozoian in memory of Diantha Buell

SECTION D — Gesneriads Grown Primarily for Foliage or Fruit

Class 32 - to Robert Hall for *Episcia* 'Cleopatra', an award from Laura Shannon

Class 33 - to JoAnne Martinez for *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', an award from the Puget Sound Chapter in memory of Phyllis Wright

Class 34 - to Jerry Trowbridge for *Aeschynanthus lobbianus* 'Variegated', an award from the Tennessee Gesneriad Society in honor of Carol Ann Bonner

Class 35A - to Jo Anne Martinez for *Nautilocalyx forgettii*, an award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Marcia Langsam

Class 35B - to Robert Hall for *Pearcea hypocyrtiflora*, an award from the Greater New York Chapter in honor of Irwin Rosenblum

Class 35C - to Mary Bozoian for *Petrocosmea duclouxii*, an award from Rita Sendic in memory of Ben Sendic

SECTION E — New Gesneriads

Class 36 - to Carolyn Conlin-Lane for *Raphiocarpus petelotii*, an award from Molly Schneider

Class 37 - to Jerry Trowbridge for *Nautilocalyx* sp. nov., an award from John & Sue Hodges

Class 38 - to Carolyn Conlin-Lane for *Chirita* 'Kitaguni', an award from Jim & Linda Golubski

Class 39 - to Jo Anne Martinez for *Chirita* 'Moonlight', an award from Marlene Beam in honor of Maryjane Evans

SECTION F — Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows

Class 40 - to Bob & Dee Stewart for *Fieldia australis*, an award from the Peninsula Gesneriad Society

Class 41 - to Phyllis King for *Pearcea rhodotricha*, an award from David, Colleen, & Nolan Turley in honor of Larry Skog

SECTION G — Collections of Gesneriads

Class 42 - to Jo Anne Martinez for her *Chirita* collection, an award from the Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers in memory of deceased members

Class 44 - to Carol Schreck for her *Chirita* Kinship Group, an award from Arleen Dewell in honor of Norma Chenkin

Division II — ARTISTIC

SECTION I — Arrangement of Fresh Cut Plant Material

Class 49 - to Bob Clark for "Invasion of the Pirates", an award from Dolly Crowder

Class 50 - to Bob Clark for "Bridges", an award from Dolly Crowder

Class 51 - to Karyn Cichocki for "Busch Gardens", an award from the Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers in memory of Emma Lahr

Class 52 - to Bob Clark for "The Florida Aquarium", an award from the Tampa African Violet Society

Class 53 - to Mary Lou Harden for "Performing Arts Center", an award from Arleen Dewell in honor of Norma Chenkin

Class 54 - to Paul Kroll for "Tarpon Springs", an award from Lee Linett in memory of Miriam Goldberg

SECTION J — Arrangement Using Growing Gesneriads

Class 56 - to Mary Lou Harden for "Lightning Capital of the World", an award from the Greater New York Chapter in memory of Charles Anzalone

Class 60 - to Paul Kroll for "Y2K", an award from the Gateway West Chapter

SECTION K — Growing Material in a Planting

Class 63 - to Phyllis King for her tray landscape, an award from the Gateway West Chapter

Class 64 - to Dale Martens for *Sireptocarpus thompsonii*, an award from Carol Callaghan

Class 65 - to Jo Anne Martinez for her natural garden, an award from Jim & Linda Golubski

Division III — THE ARTS

SECTION M — Photography

Class 68 - to Leslie Brothers for her color transparency of *Columnnea* 'Daphne', an award from Peter Shalit in memory of Jack Unterecker

Class 69 - to John Evans for his color print of *Gasteranthus acropodus*, an award from Dave & MJ Tyler

Class 70 - to Dale Martens for her black and white print of *Nematanthus* 'Stoplight', an award from Lee Linett in memory of Diantha Buell

SECTION N — Crafts Representing Gesneriads

Class 71 - to Phyllis King for her painting of *Kohleria* 'Strawberry Fields', an award from Peter Shalit in memory of Jack Unterecker

Class 72 - to Bob Clark for his *Sinningia speciosa* cross-stitch picture, an award from the Liberty Bell Chapter in honor of Helen Rolph

Class 73 - to Phyllis King for her African Violet paper flowers, an award from the Twin Cities Chapter

Division IV — COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL

SECTION P — Educational

Class 77 - to Dale Martens for "Observations from Propagating a Unifoliate Streptocarpus", an award from the Heart of America Chapter



Aeschynanthus micranthus
exhibited by Carol Ann Bonner



Pearcea hypocyrtiflora
exhibited by Robert Hall

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The Convention Lectures

Julie Mavity-Hudson <Julie.Mavity-Hudson@mcmail.vanderbilt.edu>
1015 Park Lane, Joelton, TN 37080

"Creating Hybrids: Classics, Trends, Innovation" by Paul Cummiskey of Earl J. Small Growers:

Small Growers started in 1947 with orchids, and added florists' gloxinias (*Sinningia speciosa*) and African violets in the 1950s. They now breed gloxinias, Gerbera daisies, lisianthus, and also use seed from other seed companies.

Mr. Cummiskey talked about individuals who have made a big difference in the plant world—people like Claude Hope who worked on impatiens (most of the major ones grown today were developed from one of his crosses), Bob Oglevee who re-invented geraniums, and Charles Lidell who developed double petunias—showing that one person can make a big difference.

Small's is doing some tissue culture, especially with doubles, but most are produced from seed and are F1 hybrids. *S. speciosa* 'Red Velvet' is the classic which was developed 40 years ago and is still the standard today. It is about 24" in diameter with 75 flowers or buds and costs \$15–20 at a florist. It is only sold at holidays. The mini series was developed from 'Lavender Queen' crosses and are pretty small, but still have big flowers, and 25–50 buds are possible even though they grow in 3–4" pots.

Other sinningias they have worked with are *S. reitzii*, *S. eumorpha*, and *S.* 'Georgia Sunset' crosses. The latter flower continuously, withstand outdoor environment and may make good bedding plants. *S.* 'Tampa Bay Beauty' and *S.* 'Anne Crowley' (tetraploid seedlings of *S. macropoda* × 'Georgia Sunset') have been successful for them, and also were used in crosses with other tetraploids. They have also used other material in their crosses such as *S. iarae*, and *S.* 'Redcoat' hybrids.

"Chirita: The Gesneriad of the New Millennium" by John Boggan:

Chirita is an old world genus with about 150 species and is related to *Didymocarpus*, *Chiritopsis*, and *Primulina*. *Chirita urticifolia* was the first one described, but is not in general cultivation at this time. Chiritas usually grow on limestone. They have two fertile stamens, the fruit is straight and the stigma is lamellate and usually bilobed. There are three sections: *Chirita*, *Gibbosaccus* and *Microchirita*.

Section *Chirita* has about 45 species, which are either caulescent or acaulescent perennials or are small annual herbs. *C.* 'Moon Walker' (*moonii* × *walkerae*) is the only hybrid in this section so far. Section *Microchirita* has about 20 species, mostly annual, and mostly weedy with small flowers. It includes *C. micromusa* and *C. lavandulacea*. Section *Gibbosaccus* has about 80 species and is restricted to southern China and northern Vietnam. They are acaulescent perennial rosettes with large showy flowers.

John Boggan has made several informal groups of Section *Gibbosaccus*. The *C. sinensis* group has leafy bracts enclosing the buds. This includes *C. sinensis* from around Hong Kong, as well as *C. eburnea* and *C. spadiciformis*. They are very much like African violets. The *C. pteropoda* group contains the "big boys" such as *C. flavimaculata*, *C. heterotricha* and *C. sp.* 'New York'. The miscellaneous Chinese group includes

C. fimbrisepala, *C. subrhomboidea* and *C. sclerophylla* among others. The Vietnamese group includes *C. tamiana*, *C. gemella*, *C. sp.* USBRG 98-083 and *C. balansae* (formerly sp. USBRG 98-082). Hybrids in Section *Gibbosaccus* include 'Hisako', 'Kazu', 'Dreamtime', 'Chastity', 'Blue Moon' and 'Silver Surfer'. Some of the newer hybrids are 'Naomi' which has huge red bracts with yellow flowers, and 'Stardust', a 'Silver Surfer' sibling which retains its silver pattern better and is very floriferous.

The culture for section *Gibbosaccus* includes using a well-drained mix and extra lime. Most like to be potbound and may prefer cooler temperatures, and may also be seasonal bloomers. They can be grown under fluorescent lights or bright indirect light (most are lower-light plants), and can be easily propagated from leaf cuttings. John Boggan stated that he believes that in order to keep the plants small they should be kept on the dry side as he has observed that plants grown by others on wicks tend to get much larger than the ones he grows.

"Conservation and Botanical Exploration of Gesneriads in Northwestern Ecuador" by John Clark:

John Clark is a graduate student at George Washington University in Washington DC. He is working on his PhD focusing on the genus *Alloplectus*. He lived in Ecuador for five years, first in high school, then three years in the Peace Corps, and one year on his own. He also worked in the National Herbarium of Ecuador.

His time in the Peace Corps was spent at the Bilsa Biological Research Station in Ecuador. They built the station from an old farm building and are good community neighbors, involved in women's issues, doing environmental education, and hiring local people along with doing biological work. There are about 40 species of gesneriads there at an altitude of 350–600 meters. The temperatures are in the 80–90s °F daytime and 50s °F at night. He showed photos of how he climbed up into the trees using tree spikes, then used a long telescoping pole with pruners on the end to cut the specimens he found. During his stay at the research station, Mr. Clark discovered a new type of strangler tree which had never before been described.

There were many gesneriads near the research station. *Gasteranthus crispus* and other *Gasteranthus* species showed a lot of variation in the plants of the same species, even in plants growing right next to each other. A *Besleria* species found near the area was a spindly shrub 1.5–2 meters tall, growing in a moist-to-wet area. There were a number of plants in the *Columnnea* complex, including *Dalbergaria kalbreyeriana*, which was one of the rarest plants in the preserve, and *Trichantha minor* which grew 10–20 meters above ground level. *Diastema* species were also present. *Drymonia lacinosa* was very common along the stream side and *Gloxinia dodsonii* was common on the trail sides. *Paradrymonia hypocyrta* was weedy and grew in transitional areas (those that had been disturbed).

Other plants which he photographed while there were *Pearcea* species and *Dalbergaria eubracteata* which has a spectacular red leaf with the apex green and very feathery bracts. Some of these plants are very localized and are in danger of being wiped out by a volcano.

The genus *Alloplectus* has three corolla shapes: one pouched similar to nematanthus, one with a superior swelling, and one which is urn shaped. A lot of records were lost during the bombing of Berlin during WWII. Only two of the original eight species which were defined in this genus are still actually in

this genus. Two of them turned out to be the same species, and the others have been transferred out with some of the original eight going to *Columnea* and some to *Nematanthus*. There are now considered to be 40–60 species of *Alloplectus*, but the original concept is not really easy to understand. Mr. Clark is doing molecular work now trying to sort it all out. He stated that the National Science Foundation is not funding much field work at this time; however, he will be going back to the field again in a few months.

"Pouched Flowers in the Classification of Neotropical Gesneriaceae" by Hans Wiehler:

Dr. Wiehler showed slides of *Paradrymonia hypocyrta*, of *Neomortonia rosea* with a euglossine bee inside of a flower, and of *N. nummularia* and *N. rosea* in hanging baskets. He said that *Neomortonia* must be kept wet and humid. He then went on to discuss his movement of drumming for the rainforest, which involves young people and Native Americans, and his desire to help preserve the rainforest and make people more aware of the destruction that is taking place. He implored us not to forget that our new and exciting species are coming from troubled areas that might not be there next week. He used the example of his own family who lost everything during World War II to illustrate how everything can be lost quickly when we are not aware and active in preventing disaster.

He stated that Selby Botanical Garden's new director Meg Lowman is interested in getting Selby back into research as she is a canopy researcher herself.



Between lectures, Hans Wiehler and John Clark
discussing gesneriads in Ecuador

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Fieldia australis

Bob Stewart <bob.stewart@110.net>
1 No Name Road, Stow, MA 01775

While on a business trip to California in October of 1992, I visited a commercial orchid grower who formerly grew gesneriads. I happened to notice an odd-looking plant in a corner of the greenhouse and asked what it was. He told me that the plant was *Fieldia australis*, and that he was getting rid of it to make room for more orchids. He offered cuttings, which I quickly accepted. I brought the cuttings home, a few of them took, and the plant has made another step on its journey. It is now as far as it can get from its homeland (at least, without using rocket boosters).

Fieldia australis has small thin soft-green leaves on self-branching twigs. The leaves are about 5cm long and 2.5cm wide. The overall effect of the foliage is gentle and spreading, the leaves are neither sparse nor dense on the branches. Some people report that they have seen it tending to climb, but ours grows almost exclusively horizontally.

Flowering season tends to be May through August. Flowers are produced singly in the leaf axils. The flowers are almost white, with a slight creamy or greenish tinge. They are about 3cm long and 1cm across, urn-shaped, and hang with the opening vertically downwards. The flower does not have a columnea-style hood, in fact it looks almost rotationally symmetric. There are four stamens. The stamens and stigma are arranged so that each lines up with one of the sinuses between the corolla lobes.

Unlike most gesneriads, *Fieldia australis* has noticeable bracts. (Bracts are essentially leaves that grow on flower stalks.) In the case of *Fieldia*, there is a pair of bracts that envelop the developing bud giving it the appearance of a small green tadpole. As the flower opens, the bracts lie tightly against the calyx and are not conspicuous. If the flower is fertilized the bracts turn brown and fall off, while the calyx remains green and encloses the developing fruit.

The fruit is somewhat like a columnea fruit in appearance. When ripe, the calyx folds back to expose the berry. The skin of the fruit is white, but tends to become transparent, and the black seeds within can be seen through the skin.

Despite appearances, this plant is not a columnea with white flowers! The chromosome number is 48 (*Columnea* is 9). The genus *Fieldia* is in the relatively small (about 18 species) subfamily *Coronantheroideae*, so it is more closely related to *Sarmienta*, *Mitraria*, *Negria*, and other even-less-well-known plants, than it is to *Columnea*. The plants in this subfamily come from southern Chile, the Pacific Islands, and the Australian region. Plants in this subfamily generally grow in cool and moist conditions.

Fieldia australis occurs naturally in Australia, along creeks in the mountains near the eastern coast. Although those of us who have seen too many movies involving crocodile wrestlers may picture Australia as largely semi-desert dotted with deadly water holes, the eastern coast actually gets reasonable rainfall and can be quite pleasant. The conditions in the home range of this plant are moderate to cool temperatures, with moderate rainfall relatively evenly distributed throughout the year. Snow occurs occasionally in the habitat.

If your conditions are too hot for streptocarpus, this is not the plant for you. We grow the plant in the cool section of our greenhouse. We use shade cloth, strong ventilation, and an evaporative cooler in the summer to keep temperatures as low as possible. Low night temperature is particularly important for plants that want cool conditions. In the winter we set the thermostat to allow temperatures down to about 50°F before the heat comes on. I suspect that *Fieldia* will tolerate considerably cooler temperatures, but other plants in the room might not. I have not tested the plant under warmer conditions, but I have had a report from Sue Hodges in Australia, who says that the plant will not grow in Sydney, just over a one-hour drive from its natural habitat, because the summer temperatures are too high. (Sydney is at sea level on the coast, and considerably hotter than the mountains.)

This species is rather slow growing, and slow to root from cuttings. It prefers even moisture and good humidity. It has no reserve of water for dry conditions, and will drop leaves immediately if allowed to dry out. We have sent seed to the AGGS Seed Fund, but people who have tried it have had difficulty with germination or trouble getting tiny seedlings established in pots.

The plant that we took to the Tampa convention is potted in straight long-fiber sphagnum moss, and is just under two years old from cuttings. The original plant is in a small mesh pot, moss-lined, in soilless mix. They both are growing, but the one in sphagnum is doing better. It is bigger than the original plant despite being much younger.



Fieldia australis

Black and white photos from convention courtesy of Carol Ann Bonner, Norman Chenkin, Maryjane Evans, Jeanne Katzenstein, Julie Mavity-Hudson, and Paul Susi

Awards of Appreciation

Molly Schneider

608 Hillwood Dr., Nashville, TN 37205-1314

A maximum of three Awards of Appreciation certificates are presented each year at the Annual Meeting. Criteria for the selection of recipients include importance of service rendered, length of service, and any other accomplishments of merit. Our two recipients this year easily meet the requirements having served AGGS on the international, national and local levels.

Marlene Beam of Aurora, Colorado, is a retired registered nurse having served with the U.S. Army for 21 years. She has grown gesneriads other than *Saintpaulia*, since seeing *Aeschynanthus* growing in Vietnam in 1968. A member of the Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers of the Denver area, she has held offices of President and Vice President. Marlene found AGGS in 1987 and is now a life member. She just completed a term as AGGS Director and also Chair of Library and Education, and now continues on the Nominating Committee. A Master Judge, she also has won many flower show awards in chapter and convention shows. Marlene has written numerous articles for THE GLOXINIAN and also for the American Journal of Nursing on Alzheimer's Disease. Her goals are to set the seeds of future generations; to learn, teach, show, be fruitful and try some hybridizing.

Ingrid Lindskog of Umeå, Sweden, has been a member of AGGS for fourteen years and is now an AGGS Director having attended her fourth convention in Tampa. In 1985 she founded the Swedish Saintpaulia Society. In 1994 she founded The Gesneriasts of Sweden, our largest AGGS chapter, and is their president and editor of their publication *Gesneriastnyt*. As a member of many prestigious botanical and horticultural societies in Sweden, Ingrid lectures and promotes gesneriads. Hundreds of *Saintpaulia* hybrids and more recently some *Chirita* hybrids have been developed by Ingrid. Her goals are to preserve, propagate and popularize gesneriads and produce a few commercially viable cultivars for the Swedish plant-growing public.



Marlene Beam and Ingrid Lindskog

Past Recipients of Awards of Appreciation

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1977 - Paul Arnold
Charlotte Rowe | 1985 - C. A. Cruikshank
Lee Linett
Dr. Laurence E. Skog | 1992 - Diantha Buell
Anne Crowley |
| 1978 - Frances Batcheller
Carol Saylor | 1986 - Margaret Belanger
Jimmy Dates
Isla Montgomery | 1993 - Stanley Schwartz
Margaret Waugespack |
| 1979 - Florence Messick
Mel Sater
Martin Tanner
Renee White | 1987 - Joseph Batcheller
Ted Bona
Ruth Webster | 1994 - Jeanne Katzenstein |
| 1980 - Albert Buell
Erica Clayberg
Emma Lahr
Ruth & Lyndon Lyon | 1988 - Maryann Delaune
Felicia McCann
Dr. Hans Wiehler | 1995 - Mary Bozoian
Ben Paternoster
Monte Watler |
| 1981 - Alice Courage
Helen Kavanaugh
Henry Peterson
Laura Progebin | 1989 - Judy Becker
Anthony Crisafulli
Jessie Crisafulli | 1996 - Celine Chase
Betty Tapping
Beth Weissman |
| 1982 - Michael Kartuz | 1990 - Chris Kunhardt
Michael Riley
Nellie Sleeth
Ellen Todd | 1997 - Maryjane Evans
Ron Myhr
Darrell Trout |
| 1983 - Dr. Robert E. Lee
Dr. Margaret H. Stone | 1991 - Earl Deroche
Molly Schneider
Alan Wojcik | 1998 - David Turley
M.J. Tyler
Dave Tyler |
| 1984 - S. Cleopatra Kohm
David R. Masterson
Martin Mines | | 1999 - Dr. Miriam Denham
Bonita Hutcheson
Elizabeth Varley |

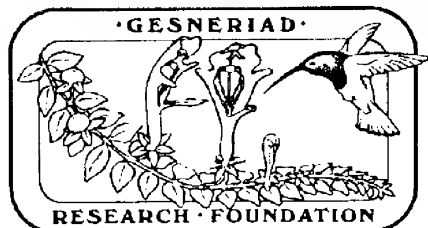
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The 15th annual silent and live auctions held at the AGGS Convention in Tampa, Florida, were a great success. We raised \$5566. In addition, \$225 cash donations were received. Convention participants once again proved to be active bidders on the live, unusual and new plant material.

Those of you that could not attend this convention, please make plans to attend our 50th year celebration in Kansas City, MO. You may have an opportunity to bid and obtain gesneriad species or hybrids as donated in Tampa this year by Dale Martens, John Boggan, the Smithsonian Institution, Toshijiro Okuto, Bill Price, Mary Bozoian, Robert Hall, and Maryjane Evans. Perhaps if you're willing to be the highest bidder, you will be eligible for a private tour and discussion of the genera in the showroom conducted by the gesneriad genius and gracious lady, Frances Batcheller. Thank you Stanley Schwartz, Bill Price, Tom Bruning, Paul Susi, Doris Brownlie, Molly Schneider and Daphne Yaremko, for the many hours spent in setting up and helping with the live and silent auctions.

Thank you donors and bidders for making these valuable contributions. In total 260 items were donated by 43 donors:

African Violet / Gesneriad Society of New South Wales, Sydney Australia	Island Treasures S.I.
Frances Batcheller	Jeanne Katzenstein
Marcia Belisle	Connie Leifeste
John Boggan	Dale Martens
Albert Buell	Leslie Milde
Carol Ann Bonner	New England Chapter
Mary Bozoian	Toshijiro Okuto
Doris Carson	June O'Neill
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Carolyn Conlin-Lane	Ben Paternoster
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Jon Dixon	Michael Riley
Gary & Pat Dunlap	Carolyn Ripp
Maryjane Evans	Molly Schneider
Gussie Farrice	Carol Schreck
Sally Freedman	Stan Schwartz
Gesneriad Research Foundation	Peter Shalit
Gulf Coast Gesneriad Society	Smithsonian Institution
Robert Hall	Bob and Dee Stewart
Horticultural Association of Tennessee	MJ and Dave Tyler
IGS / Indoor Garden Supplies	Fay Wagman
	Wallace Wells

Redefined, Revived and New Genera of South East Asian Gesneriaceae: The Re-Established and Expanded Genus *Henckelia*

A. Weber, Institute of Botany, University of Vienna
Rennweg 14, A-1030 Vienna, Austria
B.L. Burtt, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
EH3 5LR Edinburgh, Scotland, U.K.

The genus *Henckelia* was established by the German botanist K.J.P. SPRENGEL (1817) for the accommodation of a South Indian plant that had been collected by the missionary J.P. ROTTLER and published by the Danish botanist M. VAHL under the illegitimate generic name *Roettlera*. The name *Henckelia* was published two years before the name *Didymocarpus* and it should have been used to cover the Nepalese and Malayan plants of WALLICH and JACK as they were thought to belong to the same genus. However, as English botanists generally ignored the name *Henckelia* and continued to use *Didymocarpus*, the name *Henckelia* fell into oblivion.

Our investigations have shown that the plants originally described from Nepal, S. India and the Malay Peninsula are not so closely related that they can be placed in a single genus. The species grouped around the Nepalese ones are to be referred to *Didymocarpus* s.str. (see THE GLOXINIAN 50/3: 17-23), those of South India and Malesia* to a separate genus, for which—according to the rules of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature—SPRENGEL's name *Henckelia* had to be revived.

The content of *Henckelia* has been enormously widened. Apart from 'South Indian' and 'Malesian *Didymocarpus*' also the previously independent Malesian genera *Loxocarpus*, *Codonoboea* and *Platyadenia* were included because there are no clear-cut differential characters.

In the present delimitation, the generic range of *Henckelia* is from tropical South India and Sri Lanka to New Guinea and from S. Thailand to Borneo. The species number amounts to about 180. The greatest species concentration is in West Malesia, especially in Peninsular Malaysia, where around 100 specific names must be referred to that genus. There are only a few species east of Borneo: one in the Philippines, two in Sulawesi and one in New Guinea.

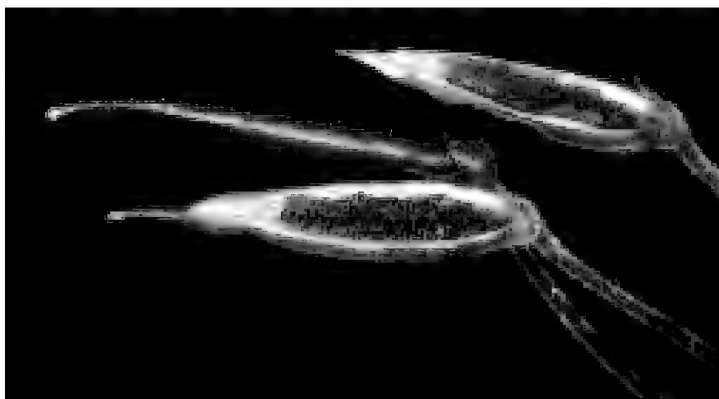
The following characters define *Henckelia* and distinguish it from *Didymocarpus*:

(1) The plants do not produce flowering shoots that die after flowering and fruiting, but show continuous growth. This means that leaves (arranged in pairs or spirally) are continuously produced at the stem apex (or branch apices) throughout the lifetime of the plants. The stem may be herbaceous, lignescent or strongly woody. Flowers or inflorescences emerge from the axils of the foliage leaves, either continuously throughout the year or periodically. This growth pattern occurs in several variants so that the outer appearance of the individual species is very variable. The range of forms

* Malesia is a phytogeographical term and refers to the area from Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula eastwards through the Archipelago to New Guinea.

includes (1) dwarf rosette plants, (2) plants with an erect woody stem bearing a tuft of leaves at the top (branching may lead to the formation of proper shrublets), (3) soft or somewhat woody herbs with distant leaves (usually in pairs) and erect, decumbent or creeping stem.

(2) The fruits are 'plagiocarpic', making a distinct (135° to 90°) angle with the pedicel. This ensures that the fruit can be held horizontally. Opening is along the upper median line only ('follicular capsule'). The poise and opening mode of the fruits result in the presentation of the seeds so that they are open to splash-dispersal by raindrops. This is in clear correlation with the distribution pattern of the genus in a \pm ever-wet area. In contrast, in *Didymocarpus* the fruits are 'orthocarpic' (pedicel and fruit in straight line) and dehisce loculicidally by two valves; position is either erect or pendulous.



Henckelia puncticulata open fruits showing horizontal position and seeds exposed to rain

(3) The bracts and sepals are of the usual texture and green (not cartilaginous with smooth polished surface).

(4) The corolla is usually trumpet-shaped (but sometimes also campanulate or flat-faced), variously coloured (including white, yellow, blue and red) and has usually two raised, yellow guide-marks at the entrance of the throat. Close similarities in flower form between species of *Didymocarpus* and *Henckelia* (but also observed in other genera) reflect a similar type of pollination rather than phylogenetic affinities.

(5) While the species of *Didymocarpus* have a ring- or cup-shaped nectary, there is much variation in that character in *Henckelia*. Ring-like nectaries are found in the majority of species of sects. *Didymanthus* and *Heteroboaea*, a characteristic unilateral nectary is found in sect. *Glossadenia*, and nectaries are missing at all in sects. *Henckelia* and *Loxocarpus*.

(6) Pigmented glands on the stem and (especially lower) surface of the leaves are never present.

(7) Despite the great variation in habit and floral characters, the chromosome number is largely uniform ($n = 9$) in the Malesian species of *Henckelia* (but very variable in *Didymocarpus*); in the South Indian species (sect. *Henckelia*) the chromosome number is less regular, but seem to be based on and derived from multiplications of $n = 9$.

In a provisional subdivision of *Henckelia*, five sections have been distinguished by the authors: sect. *Henckelia*, *Didymanthus*, *Heteroboaea*, *Loxocarpus*, and *Glossadenia*. These sections are defined by vegetative features (growth form, leaf arrangement), as well as inflorescence and floral characters.

In the present account a selection of illustrations is presented which includes species from all these sections. Apart from the South Indian *H. incana* (photo courtesy of Prof. S. Vogel) and the Bornean *H. bakoensis*, all photographs show species occurring in Peninsular Malaysia.

***Henckelia* sect. *Didymanthus*:** This is the largest section of *Henckelia* and is certainly in need of further subdivision. It is the only alliance with opposite leaves, which is obviously the original type of leaf arrangement in the genus. Stature and tallness vary considerably from species to species: while in *H. hispida* the plants are up to 1 m tall, often forming dense stands in montane forests, *Henckelia nana* (= *Didymocarpus pumilus*) is a tiny plant forming little rosettes appressed to the rocks of waterfalls. The stem may be herbaceous or slightly woody, creeping, ascending or erect. A wide range of variation can also be observed in the flowers. The corolla is usually trumpet-shaped, with a broad (e.g., *H. hispida* or *H. malayana*, the yellow 'Malayan cowslip') or narrow (*H. bakoensis*) tube, but may also be short-tubed, campanulate to somewhat Saintpaulia-like. In *H. puncticulata*, yellow marks inside the corolla tube, contrasting with the blue corolla colour, apparently simulate the presence of copious pollen (nectaries and nectar are lacking and thus classify the flowers as pollen flowers). A further elaboration is found in the recently discovered *H. geitleri*. Here the style is densely studded with bright yellow glands and protrudes far from the corolla mouth. It signals deceptively the presence of a rewarding stamen laden with pollen. Nearly all species of sect. *Didymanthus* occur in montane habitats and usually have a very local distribution, often confined to a single mountain.



Henckelia nana from Malaysia



Henckelia bakoensis from Borneo



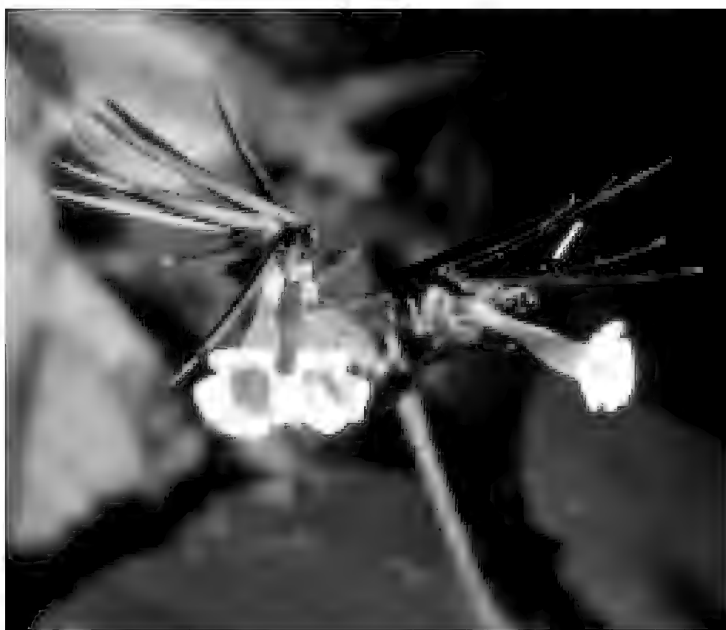
Henckelia geitleri from Pahang, Malaysia



Henckelia atosanguinea from Pahang, Malaysia



Henckelia malayana from Selangor, Malaysia



Henckelia flavobrunnea from Pahang, Malaysia

***Henckelia* sect. *Heteroboaea*:** The species of this section show a fairly uniform habit: a \pm woody, erect stem bears a loose or compact tuft of spirally arranged leaves at the top. The stem may be short, with the leaves placed near the ground, or tall, elevating the leaf tuft high above the ground (e.g., *H. platypus*). The axillary inflorescences are always reduced to single flowers (with two bracteoles on the pedicel), but each leaf axil may produce a greater number of such 1-flowered inflorescences. Though the species number is moderate, this section has the widest distribution in the genus, ranging from Sumatra over Borneo and Sulawesi to New Guinea and from South Thailand to Borneo. In Peninsular Malaysia a very characteristic and widespread species is *H. platypus*. It occurs in lowland forests and shows remarkably little variation. The flowers are trumpet-shaped and white, with two yellow bars on the lower lip. A species of montane habitats is *H. crinita*, which has nearly white flowers and very dark purple leaves in the places where it has been originally described from (Penang Island). Variants or close relatives are found at many places along the Central Range and occur also in Sumatra and Borneo. An elegant species from this alliance is *H. curtisii* which has nice pale blue flowers and attractive tufts of narrow green leaves with a central white bar. It grows gregariously on Fraser's Hill. Taller in stature and still more impressive is *H. quinquevulnera* which has white flowers with blue or purple lobes. Perhaps the most attractive flowers in the section are found in *H. atrosanguinea*: they are blood red, with a yellow entrance, and are supposed to be pollinated by birds.



Henckelia curtisii from Pahang, Malaysia



Henckelia pyroliflora from Pahang, Malaysia

***Henckelia* sect. *Glossadenia*:** This new section includes a number of species characterized by a unique floral feature: a unilateral nectary held like a hand below the ovary. The form of the nectary is tongue-like (the sectional name means 'tongue-like gland'); the tip from which the nectar protrudes is rounded or trifid. Associated characters are spirally arranged leaves and condensed inflorescences (flowers/fruits with very short pedicels and therefore appearing as a dense cluster). The flowers are white, bluish or yellow, the form ranges from trumpet-shaped to short-tubed-campanulate. Distribution of the individual species is very local. Examples are *H. flavobrunnea* with long-tubed, yellow-brownish flowers and *H. pyroliflora*, with whitish, short-campanulate flowers. Both species occur in Taman Negara National Park. The section is distributed from southernmost Thailand through the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra to Borneo.

***Henckelia* sect. *Loxocarpus*:** *Loxocarpus* was for long regarded to represent a distinct genus, and when having only the Malayan species in mind (all rosette plants with characteristic silver-hairy leaves), this can well be understood. However, taking also the Bornean and Sumatran species into consideration, the variation range increases considerably and generic separation becomes \pm impossible. A significant character is the usually short and 'humped' fruit. Corolla form varies from (broad-)tubular to flat-faced. A nectary is lacking. The rosettes usually grow on wet and mossy rock faces in shady forest or on mountain tops. A characteristic species of Penang Hill (a well-known tourist spot in Malaysia) is *H. browniana* (= *Loxocarpus incanus*). Its few-leaved rosettes can be frequently found along the streamlets running down the steep, forested part of the mountain. The fruits of the species are very short and open widely so that a typical splash-cup is formed.



Henckelia caerulea from Perak, Malaysia



Hovanella madagascariensis from Madagascar

The most impressive stands of a species, *H. ericii* (= *Loxocarpus holttumii*), were encountered in the South of the Malay Peninsula, on Gunung Pantí, where hundreds of tiny flowering rosettes greet the botanist from the steep rock faces. *H. caerulea* has perhaps the most interesting flowers in the section: the corolla is short-tubed and flat-faced and the stamens are fully exposed. The filaments are curved and thickened in the basal part and these "knees" are of a bright yellow colour. They apparently serve as pollen/anther dummies, attracting insects searching for pollen. While the insect tries (unsuccessfully) to exploit the yellow pseudo-anthers, the small and cryptically coloured true anthers deposit the pollen on the insect's body. In this way no pollen is wasted as a reward.

***Henckelia* sect. *Henckelia*:** This part of the genus (the 'type section' which includes the type species *Henckelia incana* = *Didymocarpus tomentosus*) comprises the species from South India and Sri Lanka. Species number about 15. With the exception of the creeping *H. repens*, the species are plants with basal leaves forming a compact rosette. The leaves are spirally arranged, often lyrate or rhomboid with rugose surface and often densely woolly or silvery-hairy. The corolla form is very characteristic: unlike most other Malesian species the corolla is rather small, short and broad-tubed, with a \pm marked ventral pouch. The plants usually grow in moist or humid rock crevices.



Henckelia incana from SW India

Photos courtesy of Dr. Anton Weber and the Institute of Botany at the University of Vienna
(for additional photos of *Henckelia* species, see THE GLOXINIAN 50:3: 33-41)

Redefined, Revived and New Genera of South East Asian Gesneriaceae: The New Genus *Hovanella*

A.Weber, Institute of Botany, University of Vienna
B.L.Burt, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

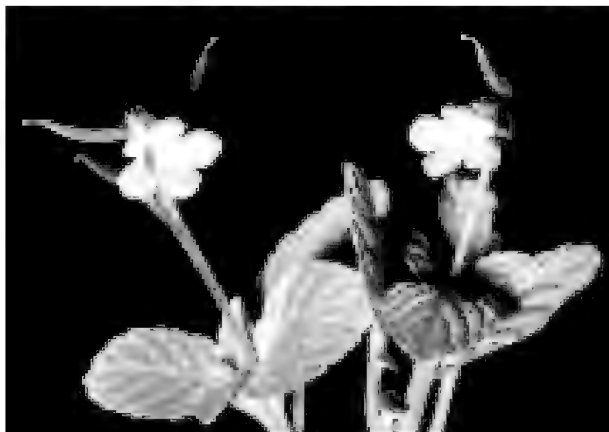
This genus has been established by the authors to accommodate the two Madagascan species that have been described in *Didymocarpus*. These were formerly placed in a separate section of *Didymocarpus* (sect. *Hova*), but the sectional name could not be used as a generic name as it would be liable to confusion with the legume genus *Hovea*. The habit is clearly different from true *Didymocarpus* (no seasonal shoots that flower and fruit one time and then die back) and the fruit does not open by two valves, but is held horizontally and opens only along the upper side. (The fruit differs, however, considerably in the two species: in *Hovanella vestita* it opens over the whole length, in *H. madagascariensis* there is a compressed hump at the base that does not open.). Though there is some similarity in habit and fruit dehiscence with the Malesian genus *Henckelia*, the two species also cannot be included in that genus:

(1) The seed coat structure is different, but identical with that known from African Gesneriaceae (*Schizoboea*, *Streptocarpus* p.p., *Saintpaulia*).

(2) The chromosome number ($n = 14$) is different from that of *Henckelia* ($n = 9$).

The Madagascan species described under *Didymocarpus* thus share the same fate as those described earlier from mainland Africa (*Didymocarpus kamerunensis*, *D. bequaertii*, *D. stolzii*). These were combined into a single species and placed in the new genus *Schizoboea* by BURTT (1974).

The illustration shows the better known of the two Madagascan species: *Hovanella madagascariensis*. It is a nice little herb with small, ventrally somewhat-pouched lilac flowers. It is known from Central and East Madagascar. *H. vestita* (with two varieties) has a rather restricted distribution in Central Madagascar.



Hovanella madagascariensis

Special Contributions

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Paul Kroll in lieu of expenses
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Dave and MJ Tyler in lieu of expenses

The Basics — Watering

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Regulated watering is one of the most important requirements of indoor culture. One of the first questions a beginner will ask is "How often do I water?" This is a question that can only be answered by you. It will depend on many conditions: your level of humidity, air conditioning, heating, retentiveness of soil, over or under potting, clay versus plastic pots. All of these things will have some bearing on the frequency of your watering.

There are no hard and fast rules to apply, except that you should never let your plants suffer from under or over watering. The rule of thumb can be followed (no pun intended) by actually pushing your thumb into the top inch of the soil. If it appears dry, then it should be watered.

Better still, one should set up a watering program that will conform to one's conditions, and follow the pattern until it becomes a routine. For instance, should your plants require watering twice a week, you might choose Mondays and Thursdays. Set up a schedule to perform the task at the same time each day, and follow it through the week. Experimenting and carefully observing your plants' needs will give you the answer. There are also exceptions to every rule; you will detect that some of your plants may need more or less watering. For a beginner the best solution is to keep these plants together where they can receive special attention.

Water should be tepid and may or may not include fertilizer. Each plant could have its own saucer, and for bottom watering the saucers should be oversized.

Your watering can should be of manageable size and not one that you cannot control. It should have a long spout that can reach your plants without any difficulty. Plants can easily be ruined by the watering can. Food basters and battery fillers are also very useful for watering and are easily maneuverable.

My watering system consists of a 17-gallon plastic pail filled with water (and fertilizer). It is equipped with a small fountain pump with a long hose attached, at the end of which is a water nozzle with a long thin spout. With this method I can easily water a large number of plants and freely move from one room to the other.

The following are the most acceptable ways of watering:

Top watering is probably the most widely used method, but not the most practical. There is a chance of spilling water and fertilizer on the leaves which in turn will cause water marks and burning.

A good point about top watering is that it leaches the soil and deters a buildup of fertilizer salts. Water should be poured through, avoiding the center of the plant, and as near the rim of the pot as possible. It is advisable to use a small watering can with a long spout or a basting or batter bulb for this purpose. These will lessen the chance of damaging the leaves as a cumbersome watering can would. It is imperative that plants should not be left standing in water more than one half hour. Most plants and especially saint-paulias are very susceptible to rot from wet feet.

Bottom watering is my preferred method of watering. With each pot placed in an oversized saucer, I fill the saucer with the solution and let it stand for no longer than one half hour. In this time the soil will have absorbed its capacity. If any water remains in the saucer it is discarded. Less damage is likely to be done to the leaves as the saucers are easily accessible. The one disadvantage is that the fertilizer salts are transmitted to the top of the pot. This can easily be remedied by giving your plants an occasional leach with clear water.

Wick watering is done by placing a three- to four-inch long synthetic wick through one of the bottom holes of your pot. Use another container, such as a margarine tub, and cut a slit in its cover. Fill this container with water and place the plant on top while suspending the wick in the water. You can do this on a larger scale by filling a tray with water and covering it with what is known as egg crating, cut to size, which is available at hardware stores. Wicking should be synthetic, or else it will rot. Strips of nylon stocking, synthetic string, or strips of capillary matting may be used for this purpose.

Capillary matting is not always easily available. It is normally purchased in a roll and can be cut to your desired specifications. Synthetic blankets may also be substituted for this purpose and are normally much less expensive. Cut to the required size and placed in the bottom of a tray, it is kept saturated and the plants that are placed on it will absorb the desired amount of water. It is recommended that the pots be equipped with a short wick to make the contact with the matting. To lessen the watering periods, a reservoir may be installed. This can also be done by placing egg crating, covered with matting, in the tray, and filling the tray with water. A small portion of the matting must be suspended in the water.

Mildew and algae, which may be unsightly and malodorous, are potential problems with capillary matting. Frequent laundering in bleach is necessary to keep this problem in check. There are formulas on the market to discourage the problem, but I have never found them very effective.

Here are some pointers that may help with your watering program:

- Never let your plants dry out completely
- Never let your plants stand in water more than a half hour
- More damage is caused by overwatering than by underwatering
- Ensure that the soil is entirely moistened but not saturated
- Avoid getting water on the foliage of your plants
- If water is chlorinated, it is beneficial to let it stand overnight

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Raphiocarpus petelotii

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My experience with this new Vietnamese species started at the Nashville convention one year ago. It was my first convention, and therefore my first experience with the live auction. I had been warned beforehand that the prices would be much, much larger than I was used to (at our local auctions, \$25 Canadian is a big price to pay!) However, my roommate Suzie Larouche and I were determined that we were going to bring "something interesting" back to Canada.

When the *Raphiocarpus petelotii* plant was described by the auctioneer as "an unusual and rare plant, new to North America", we were determined to acquire it. I was the designated bidder and was successful with a high bid just over \$100. The plant was delivered to us, and it was the first time I took a close look at it. I must admit, my first impression was not "cute little plant", but more like "what have we bought?" The plant was small and consisted of only a single stem with several hairy leaves. Due to the stresses of travel, the larger leaves were not in very good condition and required immediate attention.

After we got our precious acquisition back to our room, Suzie made sure that it was safely stowed in a plastic bag, to help increase the humidity. When it came time to divide the plant, I took the top half and Suzie took the bottom.

Once we were home, I set about rooting and propagating my piece. Fortunately it branched rather effortlessly, and I soon had several small plants growing. One of those went back to Suzie (the bottom half had put forth a valiant effort but had eventually given up), and the other was acquired by Robert Hall at our local fall auction. Less than six months later, Robert won "Best New Introduction" at our local Toronto Gesneriad Society show with his plant!

When the plant was acquired in the auction it was actually called "*Didissandra petelotii*". Shortly after the convention, John Boggan advised us of its transfer to the recently resurrected genus *Raphiocarpus*. He further informed us: "All the Chinese species of *Didissandra*, and most of the Vietnamese species as well, were transferred to this genus (which was originally created many years ago but made a synonym of *Didissandra* shortly thereafter); this came as part of an extensive series of name changes and taxonomic rearrangements in the Old World genera."

Sue Hodges (of Sydney, Australia), the donor of our auction plant, provided us with the following information about the collection site and her growing experiences.

The collection site was the edge of the road from Sa Pa to Ban Khoang between 8 to 10 km from Sa Pa, past the highest part of the range, altitude 1500 metres. The plant was collected at a roadside waterfall, growing near running water with ferns and mosses. It grew as a trailing herb 0.30m tall. It was growing in shade in accumulated humus on granite or schist. The upper surface of the leaves was mottled light and dark green, undersurface purple, both surfaces covered in purple hairs. Note: the original plant was collected in Vietnam by staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens (of Sydney, Australia).

In Sue's experience it is much happier in the cooler weather with better growth and better colouring in the leaves (high heat can damage the leaves and cause buds to drop). It has grown outdoors for her for the past two winters in a sheltered, but quite bright, position on a patio under a large cycad. Outdoor temperatures can drop to zero, but only briefly, and it would not be so cold in the shadehouse or on the patio. About the only time the plant has trailed for her is when it is not getting sufficient light. Sue's indoor plant has stems that have flopped over but those outdoors have quite strong stems. She finds that it will grow taller than the reported 30cm (the fact that the collected plant was growing in shade probably accounts for the difference).

Sue has flowered the plant for the last two years. The flower is a pale creamy yellow with purple markings in the throat. They have been produced in the leaf axils towards the tips of the stems. The flowers are about 5 to 6 cm long, forming a tube that flares, with the flowers hanging below the foliage. Setting seed is relatively easy, and it also grows easily from cuttings and from leaves (the cuttings should be grown covered, under lights).

Robert Hall shared his experiences of growing this plant as of this past February with other growers on Gesneriophiles: "I grow it covered under lights. It is easy to root cuttings but it NEEDS humidity. The leaves turn brown at the edges in 40% humidity. I have recently moved it from four fluorescent tubes to two, as it seems to like less light. The leaf texture is indeed hairy and the purple colour to the underside is nice. The temperature is about 20 to 22°C and I have it now on the lowest shelf. No flowers as the plants are young and only 6 cm tall. I am concerned as to how I will grow it to 30 cm and still provide the necessary humidity. Right now each is under a cut-off pop plastic bottle, and I will have to get a large Bell Jar or something for them."

My own growing experience is similar to Robert's. From early on (as soon as I had two small plants), I experimented with growing on an open shelf. I grew one piece "wicked" in pure New Zealand sphagnum (from a pellet), and the rest covered (also in NZ sphagnum). All of the plants were in small 2 or 2¼ inch pots. The one grown in the open was suspended over a small open container of water. My wick didn't work very well, so the growing media dried out pretty thoroughly between watering days (I water every five days). Consequently the plant was top watered every watering. Initially, all of the plants were on the top shelf of one of my three-tiered light stands in my basement, but I transferred the taller plant to a lower shelf when it got too tall to be on the top shelf. The basement has a good daily temperature range of 15/18°C to 25/27°C (lights go on at night and there is no supplementary light source).

Robert's plant was the first to set buds. Unfortunately, they all dropped off. My plant (the one grown in the open) was the second to set buds, and the two blooms that opened at the convention were the very first that the plant produced.

When it came to convention packing time, I was organizing my carry-on box around Toshijiro Okuto's new *Chirita* hybrid (at the time unnamed, but now called *Chirita* 'Kitaguni' in honour of the plant having grown up in Canada from AGGS Seed Fund seed donated by Toshijiro). The next plant to go in was another fairly new small *Chirita* (USBRG 98-083). Around that I placed a number of small plants. Finally, I had to deal with the much too tall

Raphiocarpus petelotii! I was only packing it because we three (Robert, Suzie and I) had all agreed that we should each try to bring this plant down for the convention.

I should mention that I had been continually separating the plant so that I would have lots of plants to share with others. As a result, my best almost-blooming plant consisted of a rather tall single stem. To prepare the plant for show, I merged two plants (the smaller one had two stems), resulting in the entry that consisted of a much more balanced looking three stems (all in a 3" pot), in the typical staggered growth pattern exhibited naturally by the plant. I was then forced to lie the freshly repotted plant on its side in the box, pot down and foliage lying mostly on top of the small chirita. There it stayed for the next 24 hours as it was transported to Florida experiencing a long car ride, the airport scanners, and two very turbulent flights in the overhead bins!

When I unpacked my plants in the hotel room, the *Raphiocarpus petelotii* had suffered the most. The long stem was bent from lying at an awkward angle. Lacking a support stick, I propped it up with an available dental pick (a handy plant-grooming tool), and put it under a makeshift humidity cover. This helped it considerably, and by the time it was ready to be entered, it had recovered and was no longer in need of support. Much to my delight, the two largest blooms had developed to the point where they were opening, so I was able to enter it into the blooming class.

After the show opened, I was delighted to see that it had been awarded a blue ribbon. At the awards dinner, I was astonished and thrilled when I learned that it had also been awarded "Best New Gesneriad" and "Second Best in Show". Not bad for a plant that Suzie and I had taken to calling "Our Weed"! It seemed appropriate to donate the winning plant back to the auction (from whence it had come), and I was pleased to see that it would be going to a great new home in Colorado with Marlene Beam!

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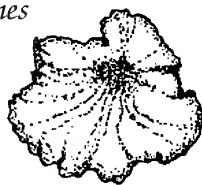
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Botanical Review Committee - Report #21

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James F. Smith, Charles C. Burke, and Warren L. Wagner, 1996. **Interspecific hybridization in natural populations of *Cyrtandra* (Gesneriaceae) on the Hawaiian Islands: evidence from RAPD markers.** *Plant Systematics and Evolution* 200: 61-77.

Cyrtandra is the second largest genus of plants on the Hawaiian Islands, with more than 56 species that occur nowhere else. However, a total of over 400 names have been described, many of them based on natural hybrids. This study investigated the DNA of 17 such putative hybrids in an attempt to determine whether they demonstrate a genetic mixture of two valid species, or whether they are distinct species not of hybrid origin. The putative hybrids were identified as such based on their occurrence with, and morphological intermediacy between, the putative parents. All of the putative hybrids showed evidence of inheritance of DNA markers unique to the putative parents, suggesting that they are indeed hybrids.

James F. Smith, 1997. Tribal relationships within Gesneriaceae: a cladistic analysis of morphological data. *Systematic Botany* 21(4): 497-513.

The tribal level relationships of the genera to each other were studied using morphological characters of 34 genera. The results give partial support to the current division of the family into three subfamilies, but there are some unexpected results. While the New World subfamily Gesnerioideae is a strongly supported group, the results suggest it has been derived from within the Old World subfamily Cyrtandroideae. The subfamily Coronantheroideae is most closely related to subfamily Gesnerioideae. Tribe Klugieae falls outside any of the currently recognized subfamilies. At the tribal level, New World tribes Episcieae and Gesnerieae were supported, whereas tribe Gloxinieae was broken up into two groups of genera, and *Anetanthus* appears to be closer to *Napeanthus* than to tribe Beslerieae, where it has been placed; in the Old World, tribes Trichosporeae and Cyrtandreae are derived from within an otherwise well-supported Didymocarpeae. However, many of the results are only weakly supported, due to missing data for many of the characters. More study is clearly needed to elucidate relationships within the family.

J.F. Smith, K.D. Brown, C.L. Carroll and D.S. Denton, 1997. Familial placement of *Cyrtandromoea*, *Titanotrichum* and *Sanango*, three problematic genera of the Lamiales. *Taxon* 46: 65-74.

The relationships of three genera of problematic placement, possibly belonging to the Gesneriaceae, were studied using chloroplast DNA. The results suggest that all three genera belong in Gesneriaceae. The Asian genus *Cyrtandromoea* has been placed in both Gesneriaceae and Scrophulariaceae in the past; the present study suggests its placement in or near the Old World tribe Klugieae. The genus *Titanotrichum*, from Taiwan and southern Japan, has never been satisfactorily placed in any tribe. The present study confirms its placement in the Old World subfamily Cyrtandroideae, but it has no close relatives and may belong in a tribe of its own. The South American genus

Sanango has been placed in Loganiaceae or Buddlejaceae in the past, but was recently transferred to Gesneriaceae, and its placement in the New World tribe Gesnerieae is supported.

James F. Smith and Cynthia L. Carroll, 1997. A cladistic analysis of the tribe Episcieae (Gesneriaceae) based on ndhF sequences: origin of morphological characters. *Systematic Botany* 22: 713-724.

This study, based on chloroplast DNA, demonstrates that the genera placed in tribe Episcieae form a natural group and supports some of the current generic classifications, but also raises several interesting questions that suggest that this is not the final word on classification in this group. *Paradrymonia*, *Nautilocalyx*, and *Chrysothemis* form a closely related group, and are relatively primitive within the tribe; but *Paradrymonia densa* does not belong to this group and does not appear to have any close relatives. The separation of *Alsobia* from *Episcia* and *Cobananthus* from *Alloplectus* are supported. The two species of *Neomortonia* are not closely related to each other; *N. rosea* is near *Columnea*, *N. nummularia* near *Episcia*. *Corytoplectus*, *Drymonia*, *Alloplectus*, *Neomortonia rosea*, and *Columnea* s.l. are closely related but their exact relationships are not resolved, and further study of this group will be necessary. One very surprising result is that *Codonanthe* and *Nematanthus*, which have the same unusual chromosome number and form fertile hybrids with each other, are not shown to be closely related. Two distinctive types of fruit found within this tribe, display fruits and berries, have each probably originated several times independently. The tribe is probably originally epiphytic, with some genera returning to a terrestrial lifestyle.

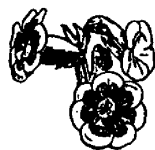
Wang Yin-zheng and Li Zhen-yu, 1997. A new species of the genus Whytockia W.W. Smith (Gesneriaceae) from Guizhou, China. *Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica* 35: 67-69. In Chinese with Latin description. Illustrated.

The new species *Whytockia bijieensis* is described.

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AG(G)S Then and Now

Suzie Larouche, AGGS Historian <suzielaro@sympatico.ca>
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In 1951, in the Oklahoma Panhandle, there was a thirteen-year-old boy named Elvin McDonald who was crazy about plants. Frustrated at finding nothing about gesneriads other than African violets in any of the horticultural publications of the time, he started a society dedicated to the culture and knowledge of Gloxinias and their relatives. Thus the American Gloxinia Society—AGS for short—began, complete with its bi-monthly journal, THE GLOXINIAN.

At the time, the editors were the founder and president of the new society and Peggy Schultz, housewife and mother of three daughters, part-time business woman, writer, and avid collector of unusual houseplants which she raised under conditions existing in the average arid, gas-heated, city home. Articles in the early issues were mostly on Gloxinias (a.k.a. *Sinningia speciosa*), African violets, several genera of other gesneriads, and any houseplants that were grown by the contributors.

Aside from the obvious passage from black-and-white to colour, two major transformations are obvious in THE GLOXINIAN between those first few years and the fiftieth anniversary of the Society: the journal now has a much more specialized and scientific slant; and the names of many genera have changed. Who still knows what Isolomas are? A hint: they are now very much in fashion and John Boggan makes wonderful hybrids, including 'Brimstone'. Naegelias were also appreciated—Dale Marten's 'Sassy Redhead' and 'Hot Pink Lady' would have been a hit among gessie lovers of the time. Of course, every single reader of this column has recognized Kohlerias and Smithianthas.

The language used in THE GLOXINIAN has evolved in more ways than have been imposed by the numerous plant name changes. For one thing, botanical names have become the norm and have eliminated the confusion created by popular names. Also, as social conventions have changed, so has the designation of people. For those of us who have a husband, thankfully for all women, we are no longer listed under his name; nor are the single women's names preceded by the awful "Miss" anymore. We seem to have shed those habits along with the hats and white gloves worn by every Miss or Mrs. So-and-So of early pictures.

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Goin' to Kansas City!

The Heart of America Gesneriad Society cordially invites everyone to attend the 45th Annual Convention of the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society to be held in 2001 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Crown Center in the Heart of Kansas City, Missouri, from Wednesday, July 4, through Saturday, July 7. This will be a very special convention as we will also be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the founding of AGGS.

The Hyatt is within walking distance of several attractions such as the Crown Center restaurants, theaters, and shopping area, the Hallmark Visitors Center, and the new Science City at Union Station. The hotel is on the Trolley Route and you can purchase an all-day pass to visit a number of other shopping and tourist areas around Kansas City.

Reserve the dates on your 2001 calendar now. Since room rates at the Hyatt have been confirmed at \$89 per night for July 2–8, 2001, plan to spend some extra time before or after the convention to see nearby attractions just over the state line in Kansas and outside the Kansas City metro area in Missouri.

Further details of the convention activities, flower show schedule, and registration will be published in the First Quarter 2001 issue of *THE GLOXINIAN*. We are looking forward to your visit.

Kansas City here we come!

The Kansas City 2001 Convention Committee

Linda Golubski, Susan Grose, Grace McCurnin,
Nancy Moerer, and Pat Richards



Heart of America Chapter members decked out in golden anniversary attire provided entertainment and an invitation to celebrate in Kansas City in 2001



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